

From: King Monty
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:52am
Subject: Microsoft Anti-Trust Trial

Hi

I live in Cape Town, South Africa and am a strong supporter of the information era. I have the following comments regarding the Microsoft Anti-Trust trial.

Firstly, due to my location, I may not have been entirely able to follow every detail of the case. To be fair, I believe that due to the complexity of the trial and indeed the entire case, there are very few people who probably were able to follow the case in its entirety. My background is for the most part development in the information technology sector. I'm also deeply involved in the entertainment and new media industry. I am effectively forced - like so many others - to use Microsoft products. Not because it's a standard Operating System with most companies in South Africa, but because it's a monopoly. Due to economic systems where our exchange rate from our currency to US dollars and the fact that Microsoft is effectively an American company means that the cost alone for Microsoft products are extremely exaggerated. This cost is reduced to zero when using something like Linux. When I first got involved in the information technology sector, the majority of South Africans used the Netscape Navigator internet browser. Today, thanks to the bundling system, the figures for use of Microsoft Internet Explorer as an internet browser is more than 80% of the internet active population of South Africa (these are substantiated facts). Microsoft have affected South African businesses in severe ways, targeting them with huge marketing campaigns, forcefully trying to make them believe that there is no other operating system available. With the advent of a massive internet boom in South Africa, large ISPs extend Microsoft's monopoly further by forcing home users to use software that only works on Microsoft Windows. New PC buyers in South Africa cannot purchase a new computer without having Microsoft Windows XP installed.

There is no choice where you are not given one.

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